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Wednesday
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Part II

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Services Administration

Designation of Medically Underserved Areas; Proposed Deletions

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Services Administration

Designation of Medically Underserved Areas; Proposed Deletions

AGENCY: Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise all interested individuals and organizations, particularly Health Systems Agencies and State Health Planning and Development Agencies, of proposed deletions from the list of areas that have been designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs). Governors of affected States will be consulted by letter regarding proposed deletions in their States. The proposed MUA deletions result from changes in available data and revisions in the weighting of the data since the last publication of the list of MUAs in the **Federal Register.** This notice also meets the newly enacted notification requirements of section 905 of Pub. L. 97–35.

DATE: Individuals and entities wishing to comment on the proposed deletions or the revisions in the weighting of data must do so by November 13, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Crooke, Chief, Positive Programming Branch, Division of Monitoring and Analysis, Bureau of Community Health Services, Room 6–22, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Telephone number 301 443–1022..

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Criteria and procedures for MUA designations and a list of MUA designations were last published in the **Federal Register** on October 15, 1976 (41 FR 45718–45777). The designation of MUAs has significance for eligibility or priority in a number of Federal health programs including:

(1) Community Health Centers (Public Health Service (PHS) Act, section 330);

(2) Health Maintenance Organizations (PHS Act, Title XIII);

(3) Health Systems Agencies (PHS Act, Title XV);

(4) Health Resources Development (PHS Act, Title XVI); and

(5) Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement for Rural Health Clinic Services (Social Security Act, Title XVIII and XIX).

The October 15, 1976, **Federal Register** previously referenced provides that: "The MUA list will be revised and published periodically, based on the most recent data available nationally. The updates will be based on changes in the actual values of the indicators or adjustments in the cut-off level." The most recent national data are:

1. The 1078 U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates by county for the physician/population ratios and for the population over 65 years of age.

2. The 1978 physician data from the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association by county.

3. The 1973–1977 infant mortality data by county.

4. The 1970 U.S. Bureau of the Census Population by county, Minor Civil Division (MCD) or Census County Division (CCD) and Census tract for the population under poverty.

5. The 1970 U.S. Bureau of the Census population by MCD/CCD and census tract for the population 65 years of age and over.

Preliminary 1980 census data are anticipated to be available in July 1982.

This proposed list of MUA deletions results from an analysis of the more recent data described above. In addition to noting the changes in the actual values of the indicators, the Department has adjusted the weights applied to the actual values of two of the indicators—infant mortality and primary care physicians per 1,000 population—in order to reflect the changes in those indicators nationally since 1975. Between 1975 and the present, there has been a decrease in the national rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births (from 17.7 to 15.9) and an increase in the shortage ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population (from .250 to .286). Therefore, the weight distributions for these two indicators were revised accordingly.

These indicators are two of four indicators used in computing the index of medical underservice (IMU), which is the score used to determine whether an area is medically underserved. The Department adjusted the weights assigned to these two indicators so that their respective values as part of the IMU would remain stable notwithstanding the changes in national data regarding infant mortality and physician/population ratio.

Comments are invited from all interested individuals and organizations within 30 days from the date of this notice as to any aspect of this proposed list of MUA deletions, including comments about particular areas on the list and comments on the statistical/methodological revisions described above.

Projects funded from the above-mentioned sources which are located in any of the areas proposed to be deleted, should contact the appropriate Department of Health and Human Services Regional Office for further information.

Dated: September 29, 1981.

John H. Kelso,

Acting Administrator, Health Services Administration.

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